

## Community Alternatives to Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities Demonstration Grant Abstract

### *Virginia*

The goal of Virginia's demonstration is to discharge children from Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities to community-based care and to improve functional status in a family setting rather than an institutional setting. The project will target Medicaid eligible children statewide. The proposed services are chosen to complement the existing continuum of care in the State Plan. The services are intended to be the critical factors in making community care possible. The proposed waiver services are Respite Services, In Home Residential Supports, Companion Services, Training and Counseling Services for Unpaid Caregivers, Environmental Modifications, and Consultative Clinical and Therapeutic Services. Services will build on child and family strengths, including cultural beliefs and community networks.

The budget includes costs for Demonstration services, technical assistance for the development of consumer directed services for children and their families, a comprehensive evaluation, a project manager and a utilization review coordinator. Additionally, many hours of in kind services will be provided by state agency staff and stakeholders.

The Demonstration will be used to strengthen and enhance the recent funding initiatives for children in Virginia. Additionally, the grant will allow Virginia to capitalize on family, state agency, stakeholder, provider, and Virginia's First Lady's interest in and support of improved services for children. State agencies have identified decreasing the number of children in residential care as an interagency goal. This Demonstration is integral to this effort.

Virginia expects that children, who had been in residential treatment, will benefit from care in family settings in the community. Additionally, community services will be provided without spending more than is currently spent for residential services. The goal of improving functional outcomes for children, while providing services in the community will be assessed by an independent research and evaluation firm. The evaluation will determine the degree of functional improvement for children in the Demonstration and will provide an independent review of the cost neutrality of the project. The evaluation will utilize a quasi-experimental design to provide reliable information for review of the Demonstration.